

REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 3, 4, 12, 14, 16, 20, 22-26 and 28. Claims 3, 12, 14, 16, 20, 22-26 and 28 are amended herein, and new claim 29 is added. Claims 1, 2, 5-11, 13, 15, 17-19, 21 and 27 remain cancelled. No new matter is presented.

Thus, claims 3, 4, 12, 14, 16, 20, 22-26, 28 and 29 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

EXAMINER INTERVIEW:

A telephone call was made to Examiner to schedule an Examiner Interview prior to filing this Amendment but the Examiner was unavailable at the requested time.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience and before the Examiner acts on this Amendment, to conduct an Interview to expedite the prosecution of the application.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101:

Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The Examiner asserts that claim 25 merely displays information and displaying of information, absent any active involvement in an executed step, does not manifest a useful result.

Independent claim 25 is directed to a method for "retrieving and displaying a specification information of the commodity subsequent to a selection of usage information by a user from a first option indicating usage information of commodities...", where commodity information is strategically displayed to facilitate commodity retrieval, a useful, tangible, and concrete result. Accordingly, claim 25 recites a method for online commodity retrieval within the technological arts providing a useful, concrete, tangible result.

MPEP §2106 states that subject matter outside patentable statutory subject matter is limited to abstract ideas, laws of nature, and natural phenomena, where the claimed subject matter is not a *practical application or use* of an idea, a law of nature or a natural phenomena. Thus, a claim to an "abstract idea" is non-statutory when it does not represent a practical

application of the idea. A claim is limited to a practical application when the method, as claimed, produces a concrete, tangible and useful result (see, MPEP §2106).

As recited in amended independent claim 25, a concrete, tangible and useful result is achieved not only "retrieving and displaying a specification information of the commodity subsequent to a selection of usage information by a user from a first option" but also by retrieving the specification information "using a specification of the commodity as a retrieval condition responsive to direct selection from a second option" to assist the user in retrieving commodity information. (see, State Street Bank & Trust Co. v. Signature Financial Group Inc., 47 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1998)).

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that because independent claim 25 satisfies the requirements of 35 USC §101, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112¶2:

On page 4 of the outstanding Office Action, claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112¶2. Claim 26 is amended herein.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

Claims 3, 4, 12, 14, 16, 20 and 22-26 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,064,982 (Puri).

Puri is limited to providing/displaying products based on interactive customer product selection session in which the customer progresses through a dialog to configure a selected product. At the start of the Puri session, a product is demonstrated to a prospective customer during which a matrix of company products is presented and the customer selects products by checking boxes on HTML forms (see, col. 3, lines 50-65). Then, the customer is guided through statements of a particular product using cascading style sheets for selecting packaging options related to the product (see, col. 5, lines 1-10 and 50-60).

When a user using Puri chooses Internet Publishing from the first display, the user is provided with a list of products with Internet Publishing capability. However, if the user does not have knowledge that a product with Internet Publishing capability is necessary for a desired operation, the Puri system would not provide any guidance (see, Fig. 4 including corresponding text).

The claimed invention provides a solution for addressing needs of users who have knowledge of specifications required for achieving an object and those who lack such knowledge.

Independent claim 3, by way of example, recites, "storing a table indicative of a correspondence between objects of use and necessary specifications of commodities required to achieve said objects of use" and "displaying a first option indicating the objects of use identifying specific operations implemented by the commodities on a user's terminal with a second option listing the specifications of said commodities." The method of claim 3 further recites, "acquiring a specification corresponding to at least one object of use selected by a user using the first option based on said correspondence stored in the table" and "retrieving a commodity based on the acquired specification as a retrieval condition." Accordingly, the claimed invention provides "information of the commodity having the specification corresponding to the selected object of use without requiring the user's knowledge of the specification" and also retrieves "said information of the commodity using the specification as the retrieval condition responsive to direct selection from said second option." Independent claims 16, 20, 22 and 23 recite similar features.

Claim 12 recites, "a database storing information of commodities for sale, the information indicating a correspondence between objects of use and necessary specifications of commodities required to achieve said objects of use." The claimed apparatus includes, "a communication unit for transmitting information for displaying a first option indicating the objects of use identifying specific operations implemented by said commodities on the Internet terminal and a second option listing the specifications of said commodities." As such, information of the commodity is selectively retrieved "based on at least one object of use selected by a user operating the Internet terminal from the first option" and "using the specification as a retrieval condition responsive to direct selection from said second option." Independent claim 14 recites similar features.

Similarly, claim 24 recites, "retrieving and displaying data regarding a commodity having specifications corresponding to the usage information selected subsequent to a user's selection of the usage information via the first option without requiring the user's knowledge of the specifications", where data of the commodity is retrieved "using the specifications as a retrieval condition responsive to direct selection from said second option." Claims 25 and 26 recite similar features.

Independent claim 28 recites, "a first option displaying operations implemented by components of commodities", where the first option is displayed "together with a second option listing specifications of each commodity." Claim 28 further recites, "retrieving only a list of commodities matching a desired operation selected from said operations by the user using the first option, where "said list of commodities is retrieved using a specification as a retrieval condition responsive to direct selection from said second option."

Puri does not teach or suggest each and every of the above-discussed features, including providing users with "first option" and "second option" for retrieving information of a commodity, as taught by the claimed invention (see discussion of claims above).

It is submitted that the independent claims are patentable over Puri.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, claims depending from the independent claims are patentably distinguishable over Puri. Claim 4, for example, recites, "a specification corresponding to the at least one object of use" selected by the user is retrieved via a network where "the network is Internet" (see also, claim 3, upon which claim 4 depends). Puri does not teach or suggest these features of claim 4.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 29 has been added to recite, "displaying a specification retrieval option listing components of commodities simultaneously with an object of use option listing objects of use of commodities in an initial menu." As such, the claimed method identifies a commodity matching an object of use "selected by a first user from said object of use option of said initial menu" and responsive to "selection of components of the commodity by a second user using said specification retrieval option of the initial menu."

Puri does not teach or suggest the above features including "a specification retrieval option" and "an object of use option", as recited in claim 29.

It is submitted that new claim 29 is patentably distinguishable over Puri.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

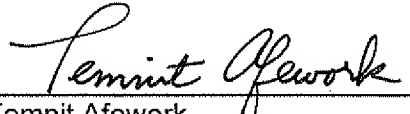
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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